

Derek A. Griffin

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Education

Ph.D. Candidate, History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 2024 – Present
Brandon Winford (Advisor)
M.A., History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, August 2025
Comprehensive Exam Fields: American History to 1877 (Luke Harlow), American History from 1877/ African American Education History (Robert Bland), and African American History (Brandon Winford)
M.S., Teacher Education, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, August 2014
Concentration: Secondary Education
B.A., History, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, May 2013
Minors: Political Science and Secondary Education

Licenses & Certifications

Professional Teaching License, Tennessee Department of Education, Eff.: Oct. 2016 - Aug. 2032
License Number: 000610189
Endorsements: 421 History 7-12, 423 Government 7-12, 424 Economics 7-12

Conference Papers

“Rebels to Panthers: ‘Balanced’ School Initiatives in Chattanooga and the Making of White Flight,” ASALH Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, Sep. 2025.
“Preserving the Ladder: A Closer Look at Reactions to the *Brown* Decision and Early Attempts at Desegregation in East Tennessee,” Ohio Valley History Conference, Oct. 2024.

Professional Experience

Graduate Student Assistant, Institute of American Civics, Howard H. Baker Jr., School for Public Policy and Public Affairs, May 2023-Present
Graduate Teaching Assistant for Modern Latin American & Caribbean History (HILA 256, 3 cr.), Beau Gaitors, University of Tennessee, Spring 2025

Lecture: "History of Education In Latin America, Post-Colonial Era-Present"
Graduate Teaching Assistant for U.S. History to 1877 (HIUS 221, 3 cr.), Brooke Bauer,
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Fall 2024
Graduate Teaching Assistant for History of the United States, 1877 to the Present (HIUS 222,
3cr.), Robert Bland, University of Tennessee, Spring 2024
Graduate Teaching Assistant for U.S. History to 1877 (HIUS 221, 3 cr.), Luke Harlow,
University of Tennessee, Fall 2023
Social Studies Instructor, Knox County Schools, Knoxville, Tennessee, August 2013 - May 2023
Social Studies Department Chair, August 2019-May 2022
Lead Teacher, August 2019-May 2022
Courses taught: Advanced Placement (AP) United States History (11th Grade), College
Prep (CP) United States History (11th Grade), CP Economics (12th Grade), CP
World History (9th Grade), CP African American History (10th-12th Grades),
Leadership I & II (9th-12th Grades)
Student Government Association Sponsor
Classes of 2017, '18, '19, '20, '21 & '22 Sponsor

Professional Service

Textbook Review Committee, Tennessee Department of Education (2018)
Rangefinding Committee, Tennessee Department of Education/Questar (2017)

Selected Awards & Fellowships

Bryan Groce Award for Public History, University of Tennessee History Department (2024)
Teacher of the Year, Tennessee History Day (2023)
U.S. Distinguished Teacher, Miguel Cardona, U.S. Secretary of Education (2022)
Tennessee Educators of Color Fellowship, Tennessee Educators of Color Alliance (2022)

Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association
Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)
History of Education Society
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Tennessee Historical Society